



State of California - The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
**2011 INDEPENDENCE MUZZLELOADER TULE
ELK HUNT**
www.dfg.ca.gov



General Information: Congratulations on receiving a tag for the Independence Muzzleloader Tule Elk Hunt. This letter contains information regarding your hunt.

Visit the above website address for specific zone regulations (hunt zone map, description, and harvest success information can also be viewed at this address). All successful tule elk hunters are required to have their tags validated. To have your elk tag validated Monday through Friday, please call the Department's Bishop office at (760) 872-1171 or any person listed in Section 708 of the Hunting Regulations for Mammals and Furbearers. Elk may be taken within the Independence zone using muzzleloader equipment only, as specified in Section 353 during this hunt period. Please refer to the hunt boundary description for the legal boundaries.

Please remember that all hunters MUST return tag report cards to the Department within one week after the close of the elk season REGARDLESS of whether an elk was taken.

The Department is collecting teeth from animals taken by hunters for age analysis. Successful hunters should follow directions on the tooth envelope (included with this flyer) to remove the two front teeth (and only the two front teeth, please do not send in sections of the jaw) and submit them to the Department. Please do not wrap teeth in plastic or foil. The Department will post the age analysis results at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/elk/> for hunters that submit teeth from their hunt. The age of your animal can be found by using your hunting license number (from the 2011-2012 license year). Please note that these results may not be available until **December** of the **following** year.

Care of Meat: Conditions during the elk hunting season can be quite warm. It is critical you are prepared to properly care for the meat if you harvest an animal. Elk are **large** mammals and hold heat which leads to spoilage. Open up the elk as soon as possible including the neck area. You should be prepared to skin and quarter or bone your elk immediately after it is tagged. The meat should be hung in flyproof breathable sacks in the shade until you pack it out. If you are hunting by yourself, you will need, at minimum, four game sacks, plenty of rope, a game hoist, a knife, a knife sharpener, and a pack frame. A meat saw or hatchet and a tarp would also likely be helpful. Be prepared to remove all portions of a harvested animal in a timely fashion to prevent wanton waste, violators will be cited.

Outfitters and Guides: Outfitters and guides offer a variety of services for elk hunters interested in hunting. Many have limited space so be sure to contact them as soon as

possible to reserve their services. It is your responsibility to verify any guides you retain have a **current guide license** issued by the Department of Fish and Game. If you plan to hunt on Federal property your guides will also need to be **permitted** with that Federal land agency. Failure to verify the proper licenses required may result in a citation to both the hunter and guide. A list of licensed guides can be obtained online (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/hunting/>). Scroll down to the Related Information section and select Big Game Guide List.

Some elk within the hunt area have been fitted with radio collars to provide us with important management information. The Department requests that you **NOT** harvest elk with radio collars as these collars were recently deployed and are actively collecting valuable data. In the event that you take a collared elk, please contact either Mr. Joe Hobbs at (916) 445-9992 or Mr. Mike Morrison at (760) 872-1171 immediately so we can make arrangements to get the collar. To prevent loss of data, it is important to contact us as soon as possible.

Our goal is to assure that you have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience. If you need information as you plan for your hunt, please contact the Bishop area biologist at (760) 872-1171, or Mr. Joe Hobbs, Elk Program Coordinator, at (916) 445-9992. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope you have a successful hunt. Good luck!